WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. For use in a digital video player, an apparatus for displaying a digital still image file using a Moving Picture Expert Group (MPEG) standard, the apparatus comprising:

a controller capable of dividing the digital still image file into a plurality of sub-picture files, the controller further capable of constructing an MPEG video stream from the plurality of sub-picture files; and

an MPEG processor capable of decoding the MPEG video stream to generate a plurality of decoded sub-pictures and scaling down the plurality of decoded sub-pictures to a plurality of reduced size decoded sub-pictures.

2. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said MPEG processor is further capable of storing the plurality of reduced size decoded sub-pictures in a display buffer.

3. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said MPEG processor is further capable of displaying contents of the display buffer only after the MPEG video stream is decoded.

4. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said MPEG processor is further capable of freezing display of display buffer contents until a second MPEG video stream is completely decoded.

5. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 and further including decode memory that stores the decoded sub-pictures.

6. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said controller is further capable of determining a size for each of the plurality of sub-picture files.

7. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said controller is capable of determining the size for each of the plurality of sub-picture files by calculating a quantity of 16 x 16 pixel macro blocks that is less than a maximum quantity of macro blocks that the MPEG processor can accept and decode.

8. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 7 wherein said controller is further capable of determining that the size of each of the plurality of sub-picture files does not exceed a size of the display buffer.

9. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 7 wherein each of said sub-picture files can be scaled down by overlapping a current sub-picture row of macro blocks with a last row of macro blocks from a subsequent sub-picture file.

10. A digital video player capable of displaying a digital still image from a digital data storage medium, said digital video player comprising:

a controller capable of dividing the digital still image file into a plurality of sub-picture files, the controller further capable of constructing an MPEG video stream from the plurality of sub-picture files; and

an MPEG processor capable of decoding the MPEG video stream to generate a plurality of decoded sub-picture files and scaling down the plurality of decoded sub-picture files to a plurality of reduced size decoded sub-picture files.

11. The digital video player as set forth in Claim 10 and further including memory for storing the plurality of decoded sub-picture files.

12. The digital video player as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said MPEG processor is further capable of storing the plurality of reduced size decoded sub-pictures in a display buffer.

13. The digital video player as set forth in Claim 12 wherein said MPEG processor is further capable of displaying contents of the display buffer only after the MPEG video stream is decoded.

14. The digital video player as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said MPEG processor is further capable of freezing display of display buffer contents until a second MPEG video stream is completely decoded.

15. The digital video player as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said controller is further capable of determining a size for each of the plurality of sub-picture files.

16. The digital video player as set forth in Claim 15 wherein said controller is capable of determining the size for each of the plurality of sub-picture files by calculating a quantity of 16 x 16 pixel macro blocks that is less than a maximum quantity of macro blocks that the MPEG processor can accept and decode.

17. The digital video player as set forth in Claim 16 wherein said controller is further capable of determining that the size of each of the plurality of sub-picture files does not exceed a size of the display buffer.

18. The digital video player as set forth in Claim 16 wherein each of said sub-picture files can be scaled down by overlapping a current sub-picture row of macro blocks with a last row of macro blocks from a subsequent sub-picture file.

19. For use in a digital video player having a Moving Picture Expert Group (MPEG) processor, a method for displaying a digital still image file from the digital video player, the method comprising the steps of:

dividing the digital still image file into a plurality of sub-picture files;

constructing an MPEG video stream file from the plurality of sub-picture files;

decoding the MPEG video stream file to generate a decoded MPEG video stream file;

scaling the decoded MPEG video stream file to a reduced size video stream file; and

transmitting the reduced size video stream file to a display.

20. The method as set forth in Claim 19 further comprising the step of determining a size for the display prior to scaling the decoded MPEG video stream file.

21. The method as set forth in Claim 20 further comprising the steps of:

overlapping a last portion of a first sub-picture file with a first row of a subsequent sub-picture file; and

coding the reduced size into an MPEG sequence-level header of the MPEG video stream.